Mock Turtle; "but, if you've seen them so often, of course you know what they're like?"

"I believe so," Alice replied thoughtfully. "They have their tails in their mouths—and they're all over crumbs."

"You're wrong about the crumbs," said the Mock Turtle: "crumbs would all wash off in the sea. But they *have* their tails in their mouths; and the reason is—" here the Mock Turtle yawned and shut his eyes. "Tell her about the reason and all that," he said to the Gryphon.

"The reason is," said the Gryphon, "that they *would* go with the lobsters to the dance. So they got thrown out to sea. So they had to fall a long way. So they got their tails fast in their mouths. So they couldn't get them out again. That's all."

"Thank you," said Alice, "it's very interesting. I never knew so much about a whiting before."

"I can tell you more than that, if you like," said the Gryphon. "Do you know why it's called a whiting?"

"I never thought about it," said Alice. "Why?"

"*It does the boots and shoes,*" the Gryphon replied very solemnly.

Alice was thoroughly pu
and shoes!" she repeated
"Why, what are *your*
the Gryphon. "I mean
shiny?"

Alice looked down at
little before she gave her
with blacking, I believe."

"Boots and shoes unde
went on in a deep voice,
Now you know."

"And what are they m
a tone of great curiosity.

"Soles and eels, of cour
rather impatiently: "any
you that."

"If I'd been the whit
thoughts were still runnin
said to the porpoise 'Keep
want *you* with us!' "

"They were obliged to
the Mock Turtle said.
anywhere without a porpo

"Wouldn't it, really?"
great surprise.

"Of course not," said t

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